

76. A data entry device for use in a data entry system, said data entry device comprising:

a reading sensor responsive to sensed commands and data to produce input signals;

a controller coupled to said reading sensor to receive and process said input signals;

said controller coupled to a communications interface to selectively control transmission over said communications interface of command and/or data signals as determined by said input signals processed by said controller; said communications interface being operable directly to connect said data entry device to a wireless telecommunications network; and

a display coupled to said controller to display commands and/or information under control of said input signals processed by said controller;

wherein said reading sensor, controller and display comprise a unitary assembly.

77. A device according to Claim 76, wherein said communications interface is a cellular telephone network interface and said wireless telecommunications network is a cellular telephone network.

78. A device according to Claim 77, wherein said data entry device is integral with a cellular telephone.

79. A data entry device according to Claim 78, wherein said communications interface includes a modem.

80. A data entry device according to Claim 76, wherein said communications interface is a satellite interface and said wireless telecommunications network is a satellite telecommunications network.

81. A data entry device according to Claim 80, wherein said communications interface includes a modem.

82. A data entry device according to Claim 76, wherein said reading sensor, controller and display comprise a hand held unit.

83. A data entry method comprising the steps of :

(A) using a data entry device comprising a reading sensor to sense identification data and commands associated with items for user selection and to produce input signals;

(B) processing said input signals in said data entry device: (i) to access stored information stored by a programmable store in said data entry device and related to one or more selected items associated with identification data sensed by said reading sensor in said step (A), (ii) to generate on a display incorporated in said data entry device a user intelligible representation of said commands and of at least some of said accessed stored information, and (iii) to transmit selected accessed stored information via a communications interface to a remote processing center.

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84. A method according to Claim 83, in which said stored information is stored in rewritable storage in said data entry device, and including the step of downloading information from said remote center via said communications interface to update information stored in said rewritable storage relating to selectable items.

85. A method according to Claim 83, wherein at least said reading sensor, programmable store and display comprise a hand held data entry device.

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Respectfully submitted


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